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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 HARARE 000971

SIPDIS

STATE FOR CA/OCS STEVE DONLON, DS/LEC, DS/ICI/PF

JOHANNESBURG FOR DHS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [CASC](#) [ASEC](#)

SUBJECT: DEATH OF US CITIZEN IMPOSTOR

REF: HARARE 000894

REFTTEL REPORTED THE DEATH OF US CITIZEN WILLIAM TAYLOR (DPOB: 27SEP1953; CHICAGO, IL) ON JUNE 15, 2005 IN BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE. POST HAS NOW CONFIRMED THAT THE DECEASED WAS NOT/NOT WILLIAM TAYLOR AND NOT/NOT AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. POST BELIEVES THE DECEASED MAY HAVE BEEN A CZECH CITIZEN NAMED VLADIMIR SABL.

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Summary  
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1. During the search for Mr. Taylor's next of kin, Consul repeatedly encountered seeming inconsistencies between the life of the man who lived and died as William Taylor (DPOB: 27Sep1953; Chicago, IL) in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe for the past twelve years and the William Taylor whose passport application was on file with the Department of State. For example, despite having a 1951 Chicago birth certificate to native-born American citizen parents and having never applied for a US passport prior to 1992, friends and associates of the deceased in Bulawayo uniformly told Consul that he spoke fluent Czech, Polish and Spanish, spoke English with a heavy Czech accent and that he had told them he was born in Czechoslovakia.

2. Based on these inconsistencies and in close cooperation with ARSO, Consul launched an investigation into the citizenship of the man who died as William Taylor in Bulawayo on June 15, 2005, hereafter referred to as "DECEASED." After reviewing the following evidence, Consul has reached the conclusion that the DECEASED was not/not William Taylor or, in fact, an American citizen.

3. Consul believes that the DECEASED may have been a Czech national named Vladimir Sabl (DPOB: 16Mar1951; Prague-Podoli, Czechoslovakia) who had lived in the United States during the late 80s and early 1990's and may have fraudulently obtained US passport 029345064 in the name William Taylor in 1992. If this is true, the DECEASED may have faked his own death in Prague in 1995 and gone into a partnership in a gold-mining venture with his widow in Zimbabwe.

4. The following evidence was also reviewed with the local Czech consul who concurs the above may be true and has launched his own investigation and notified the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs. End Summary.

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Why the deceased wasn't Mr. Taylor.  
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5. The first and only US passport application in PIERS for William Taylor was made at a US post office in Chicago, IL in 1992. The identifying documents used to obtain the passport were an Illinois driver's license (number illegible) and a Cook County Birth Certificate (copy available at post). The photo on the passport application is believed to be that of the DECEASED.

6. Based on the initial clues of accent and language ability, Consul and ARSO requested a Criminal History Inquiry on William Taylor, using the date, place of birth and Social Security number on his 1992 passport application. The Diplomatic Security Law Enforcement Center (LEC) promptly provided a criminal history for Mr. Taylor that includes numerous arrests in multiple states (AZ, OR, NJ, NC and NM) during the time that the deceased was living in Zimbabwe without a valid US passport.

7. ARSO was able to locate a photo of William Taylor taken by the Oregon DMV on January 31, 2000 that clearly shows a different man than the one in the 1992 US passport application and the DECEASED'S 1995 Zimbabwe Residency Permit. Post has also requested a 1980 INS photo of Vladimir Sabl to complete the comparison. As Consul was notified of the DECEASED'S death ten days after the fact, she was not able to visually ID the DECEASED. However, in every interview with the DECEASED'S friends and colleagues, they verified that the man they knew as William Taylor was the one in the passport photo.

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Why the deceased may have been Mr. Sabl  
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18. ARSO ran a credit history check of Vladimir Sabl which indicates that in 1993 his home address was 7034 Cermak Road, Berwyn, Il 60402. This address is about 3 miles from 5242 W 31st Street, Cicero, Il 60804, where William Taylor was living with his mother, Julia Merritt Taylor, at the same time.

19. DS LEC also ran a Criminal History Inquiry on Mr. Sabl which revealed an arrest on immigration charges by INS Chicago on October 24, 1980 for a visa overstay. This record for A22683056 indicates that a fingerprint card and photo are on file. Working with DHS Investigator in Johannesburg, Consul has requested a copy of that file and photograph for comparison to local photos of the deceased and arrest photos of William Taylor.

110. After reviewing the DECEASED'S personal documents that were found in the room he was renting in Bulawayo, Consul discovered Czech-language records with certified English translations that chronicled the life of a Czech man named Vladimir Sabl. These include:

- Mr. Sabl's birth certificate;
- Mr. Sabl's August 25, 1972 marriage certificate to Miloslava (Milena) Vestfalova (DPOB: 24May1952; Prague-Nove Mesto, Czechoslovakia);
- Mr. Sabl's April 22, 1995 death certificate of a fatal lung tumor in Prague.

111. These documents were found in a plastic folder that also contained:

- a photocopy of William Taylor's US birth certificate;
- photocopy of the face page of William Taylor's US passport 029345064;
- a Zimbabwe residency permit in the name William Taylor (with a photo of the DECEASED) from March 19, 1995 to March 19, 1997;
- a letter dated April 5, 2000 addressed to the U.S. Embassy in Harare requesting a replacement for a stolen passport. This letter lists the DECEASED's then-fiance, Sioneni Mbedzi, as his contact person.

112. Among several hundred pages of personal and business documents left by the DECEASED, Consul believes the following may help explain who the DECEASED was and why he would have followed this curious path:

- The DECEASED incorporated a company named S.A.B.L Travel Consultants Ltd. in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe on December 17, 1993.

- On June 13, 1995, Miloslava Vestfalova Sablova signed a power of attorney document in Prague authorizing Mr. Petr Jirousek (DOB: 15Nov1950) to "transfer shares of Vladimir Sabl. at the company S.A.B.L. TRAVEL Consultants, Limited and S.I.T. Foreign Trade/Private/Limited." A copy of this document with a certified English-language translation was found in the DECEASED'S files.

- On May 21, 1996 in Prague Petr Jirousek, Frantisek Pacholik and Milena Sablova in "(their) capacity as directors of S.A.B.L. Travel Consultants Limited and S.I.T. Foreign Trade Limited" appointed "Mr. William Taylor born 27 September 1953 to represent S.A.B.L. Travel Consultants Limited and S.I.T. Foreign Trade Limited" and "authorize(d) this person to execute all necessary actions related to these companies." This English-language Power of Attorney was also found in the DECEASED'S possession.

- An Affidavit dated May 30, 1996 also found in the deceased's records reports the following: "I, the undersigned, Pavel Simek in my capacity sender of the mining equipment shipment B/L Number ZW1566DE for SABL Trading Company, addressed to Mr. William Taylor, 22 Wotton Cres. Montrose Bulawayo Zimbabwe, hereby proclaim a mistake in the company name which is rightfully S.I.T. Foreign Trade Ltd. To Mr. William Taylor 22 Wotton Crescent Montrose Bulawayo Zimbabwe, additional document: corrected copy of invoice." This Affidavit lists a mailing address for Pavel Simek at Nam. 17 Listopadu 295, 26102 Pribram V11, Czech Republic. Attached to the Affidavit was a photocopy of a Government of Zimbabwe-issued "Certificate of Exemption from Import/Sales Tax and Surtax on Capital Goods" issued to S.I.T Foreign Trade Ltd to 22 Wotton Close, Montrose, Bulawayo. This Certificate of Exemption lists the goods to be imported as "Foreign Assets, gold mining equipment from Pavel Simek" with a value of USD 18,292.00. This Certificate was dated

July 3, 1996.

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Next Steps  
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¶13. Consul has turned over all of the DECEASED's personal documents, as well as the responsibility for notifying his next of kin and handling his estate to her counterpart at the Czech Embassy in Harare. Copies of all documents and photos are contained in the Embassy file and can be scanned and emailed for review.

¶14. Post requests Department guidance on how to proceed. Are there any further measures necessary to document that the DECEASED was not William Taylor?

¶15. In addition, post requests that DS/ICI/PF initiate an investigation into how the DECEASED obtained Mr. Taylor's identity. Please also provide guidance concerning fraud committed by Vladimir Sabl, his widow, Milena Sablova, and former business partners, Petr Jirousek, Pavel Simek and Frantisek Pacholik, all of whom CCD indicates may have valid US NIVs.

SCHULTZ